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# State of Connecticut

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## Testimony Before Select Committee On Veterans' Affairs State Comptroller Nancy Wyman February 3, 2009

Good afternoon Chairman Maynard, Chairman Graziani, Senator Fasano, Representative Harkins and distinguished members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I have provided some general comments on Proposed H.B. 6086 "An Act Concerning Retirement Credit For State & Municipal Employees Who Are Veterans" which is currently before your Committee.

Existing statutes provide state and municipal employees the opportunity to apply for and receive military service credit for retirement purposes. State employees have the opportunity to receive military service credit for purposes of retirement under rules established by collective bargaining. The current collective bargaining agreement, SEBAC V, which defines "credited service" is in effect until 2017. Further, service in time of war is defined by the General Assembly pursuant to Section 27-103 of the General Statutes.

Similarly, C.G.S. 7-436bb provides for military service credit for municipal employees of towns who participate in the state-sponsored Municipal Employee Retirement Fund (MERF). Prior proposals have been raised by the Labor & Public Employees Committee to re-open the window and extend the deadline for purchasing military service for credit in Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS) for employees who had not availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase military service credit upon employment. At that time I expressed my concern regarding the cost to municipalities of such a proposal.

I would be happy to work with Rep. Noujaim and the Committee with regard to this proposal. Thank you for opportunity to comment on this proposal.